

18-903.

(A) (1) IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE SECRETARY, IN CONSULTATION WITH HEALTH CARE FACILITIES, MAY REQUIRE HEALTH CARE FACILITIES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CONTINGENCY PLANS ADDRESSING:

(I) STAFF TRAINING NEEDS;

(II) STOCKPILING OF EQUIPMENT, MEDICATION, AND SUPPLIES NECESSARY TO ADDRESS A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY;

(III) TREATMENT AND DECONTAMINATION PROTOCOLS;

(IV) THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES WITH OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ENTITIES; AND

(V) ANY OTHER AREA THAT THE SECRETARY DETERMINES IS NECESSARY TO ASSIST IN THE EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF AN INDIVIDUAL EXPOSED TO A DEADLY AGENT.

(2) TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE, THE PROCEDURES TO BE ADOPTED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON THE ACCREDITATION OF HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS.

(B) AFTER CONSULTING WITH THE APPROPRIATE LICENSING BOARD, THE SECRETARY:

(1) SHALL PUBLISH PROTOCOLS TO ASSIST HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS IN DEVELOPING PLANS TO RESPOND TO A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY; AND

(2) MAY, IF NECESSARY, REQUIRE HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLANS DEVELOPED UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(C) THE SECRETARY SHALL DEVELOP A PROCESS TO LICENSE, CERTIFY, OR CREDENTIAL HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONERS WHO MAY BE NEEDED TO RESPOND TO A CATASTROPHIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.

18-904.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "INFORMATION" MEANS MEDICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, OR OTHER DATA CONCERNING A SPECIFIC INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS, REGARDLESS ~~IF~~ OF WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS OTHERWISE DEEMED CONFIDENTIAL ~~BY LAW~~ UNDER TITLE 4 OF THIS ARTICLE OR AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED UNDER LAW.

(B) IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN AN EFFECTIVE DISEASE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM FOR DETECTING WHETHER INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO A DEADLY AGENT, THE SECRETARY MAY BY ORDER, DIRECTIVE, OR REGULATION: